

# California West Nile Virus Surveillance Project EQUINE & RATITE ENCEPHALITIS ARBOVIRUS TESTING PROTOCOL



## ***How do I submit equine and ratite neurologic case samples for free arbovirus testing?***



### **1. Report Suspect Case**

All **Equine** suspect cases of arboviral encephalomyelitides should be immediately reported to your District Office of CDFA's Animal Health Branch. Local telephone numbers are located on page 2.

### **2. Collect Specimens**

Equine and ratite serum samples and/or brain tissue samples (in fatal cases) can be tested.

**Blood:** Collect paired serum specimens in clearly labeled red top tubes during the acute and convalescent phases. Samples may be sent as whole blood or serum at ambient temperature. Do NOT freeze whole blood.

(**Acute**) Collect 5-10 ml of blood no later than 7 days after disease onset.

(**Convalescent**) Collect 5-10 ml of blood at 14-21 days after the date of disease onset.

**Brain:** Submission of the intact head is preferable because the brain is better preserved and brain removal under field conditions may increase the risk of exposure to rabies. The intact head should be chilled immediately and submitted to California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) as soon as possible. Chilled specimen must be received within 48 hours.

### **3. Complete Submission Form\***

Fill out the CAHFS submission form completely. You may use the attached form or a copy of the form can be downloaded from <http://cahfs.ucdavis.edu/>. Be sure to include WN, WEE, VEE, and EEE vaccine history for equine and ratite cases on the submission form.

### **4. Packaging**

Prepare in a leak proof insulated transporting container (ex. Styrofoam) with cold packs to maintain specimen at 4°C while in transit. If needed, check with a CAHFS Laboratory for further assistance with shipping regulations governing the transportation of infectious materials.

### **5. Mail Specimens Overnight Delivery**

OVERNIGHT delivery is preferred to ensure that samples arrive in good condition. Specimens should be sent to your nearest California Health and Food Safety Laboratory (CAHFS). Please see page 2 to locate your nearest CAHFS laboratory address and telephone number.

#### **\*RATITES**

***Note for submission of ratite samples:*** Ratite samples are not routinely tested so please call CAHFS in advance to notify the laboratory and arrange for submission before mailing your samples.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Arbovirus testing costs (WEE, EEE and WNV) for equine and ratite neurologic cases will be paid by the Department of Health Services and will at no time be charged to you.

*Please call Veterinary Public Health Section of DHS at (916) 327-0332 if you have any questions regarding the surveillance program. **Thank you for your participation!***

# California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

## Animal Health and Food Safety Services

### Animal Health Branch : District Offices

#### SACRAMENTO HEADQUARTERS

Chief: Ken Thomazin, DVM

Sacramento, CA 95814

Telephone: (916) 654-1447

FAX: (916) 653-2215

#### REDDING DISTRICT - DISTRICT 1

Veterinarian in Charge: Charles Palmer, DVM, MPVM

2135 Akard Avenue, Room 8

Redding, CA 96001-2794

Telephone (530) 225-2140

FAX: (530) 225-2240

#### MODESTO DISTRICT - DISTRICT 4

Veterinarian in Charge: Davis Willoughby, DVM, Dipl., ACPV

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center

Tuolumne Building

3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite F

Modesto, CA 95358

Telephone: (209) 491-9350

FAX: (209) 491-9350

#### FRESNO DISTRICT – DISTRICT 5

Veterinarian in Charge Jeffrey Davidson, DVM, MPVM

2789 South Orange Avenue

Fresno, CA 93725

Telephone: (559) 237-1843

FAX: (559) 237-4337

#### ONTARIO DISTRICT – DISTRICT 6

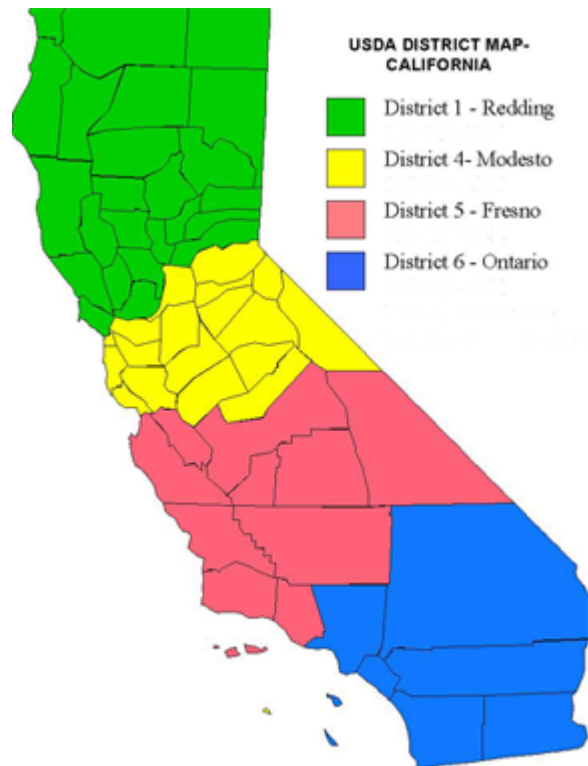
Acting Veterinarian in Charge: David Kerr, DVM, MPVM

1910 S. Archibald Avenue, Suite Y

Ontario, CA 91761

Telephone: (909) 947-4462

FAX: (909) 932-5128



## California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory System

#### DAVIS: CENTRAL LABORATORY

Director: Alex Ardans, DVM, MS

University of California Davis

P.O. Box 1770

Davis, CA 95617-1770

Telephone: (530) 752-8709

FAX: (530) 752-5680

#### SAN BERNADINO

Deryck Read, DVM, PhD

105 West Central Avenue

P.O. Box 5579

San Bernadino, CA 92412

Telephone: (909) 383-4287

FAX: (909) 884-5980

#### TULARE

Patricia C. Blanchard, DVM, PhD

VMTRC – VAHFS

18830 Road 112

Tulare, CA 93274

Telephone: (559) 688-7543

FAX: (559) 686-4231

#### TURLOCK

Bruce R. Charlton, DVM, PhD

P.O. Box 1522

Fulkerth Avenue & Soderquist Road

Turlock, CA 95381

Telephone: (209) 634-5837

FAX: (209) 667-4261

#### FRESNO

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2789 South Orange Avenue

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FAX: (559) 485-8097